

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 18-519V

Filed: September 9, 2019

UNPUBLISHED

JANICE SHELLY,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU); Joint  
Stipulation on Damages; Influenza  
(Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-Barre  
Syndrome (GBS)

*Lawrence R. Cohan, Anapol Weiss, Philadelphia, PA, for petitioner.*

*Voris Edward Johnson, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

## DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION<sup>1</sup>

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On April 9, 2018, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, et seq.,<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) that was caused-in-fact by her receipt of an influenza (“flu”) vaccination administered on November 20, 2015. Petition at 1; Stipulation, filed September 9, 2019, at ¶¶ 1, 4. Petitioner further alleges that the vaccine was administered within the United States, that she experienced the residual effects of her GBS for more than six months, and that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of her condition. Petition at 5-6; Stipulation at ¶¶ 3-5. “Respondent denies that petitioner sustained a GBS Table injury, and denies that the flu vaccine caused petitioner’s alleged GBS and residual effects, or any other injury.” Stipulation at ¶ 6.

<sup>1</sup> The undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website. **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access. Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, undersigned is required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services).

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

Nevertheless, on September 9, 2019, the parties filed the attached joint stipulation, stating that a decision should be entered awarding compensation. The undersigned finds the stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Stipulation, **the undersigned awards** the following compensation:

**A lump sum of \$98,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner.**  
Stipulation at ¶ 8. This amount represents compensation for all items of damages that would be available under § 15(a). *Id.*

The undersigned approves the requested amount for petitioner's compensation. In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**

Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

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JANICE SHELLY,	)	
	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	No. 18-519V (ECF)
v.	)	Chief Special Master Dorsey
	)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

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**STIPULATION**

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Janice Shelly (“petitioner”) filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, **42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 to -34** (the “Vaccine Program”). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly sustained following petitioner’s receipt of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), **42 C.F.R. §100.3(a)**.
2. Petitioner received flu and pneumococcal vaccines on November 20, 2015.
3. The vaccines were administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that she suffered Guillain-Barré syndrome (“GBS”) that was caused-in-fact by her receipt of the flu vaccine. Petitioner further alleges that she experienced the residual effects of her GBS for more than six months.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of her condition.
6. Respondent denies that petitioner sustained a GBS Table injury, and denies that

the flu vaccine caused petitioner's alleged GBS and residual effects, or any other injury.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1)**, the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payment:

A lump sum of \$98,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Janice Shelly, which amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)**.

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1)**, and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and her attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g)**, to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made under any State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act, **42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.**), or by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. Payment made pursuant to paragraph 8 and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i)**, subject

to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner, as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in her individual capacity, and on behalf of her heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the United States of America from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to, or death of, petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu or pneumococcal vaccines administered on November 20, 2015, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about April 9, 2018, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 18-519V.

14. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

15. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties'

settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

16. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States of America or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that petitioner's alleged GBS and residual effects, or any other injury, were caused by the flu vaccine.

18. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, successors and/or assigns.

#### **END OF STIPULATION**

/ /

Respectfully submitted,

**PETITIONER:**

*Janice Shelly*  
JANICE SHELLY

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
PETITIONER:**

*LAWRENCE R. COHAN*  
LAWRENCE R. COHAN  
Anapol Weiss  
One Logan Square  
130 N. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1600  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 790-4567

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

*Catharine E. Reeves*  
CATHARINE E. REEVES  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-0146

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES:**

*Ward Sorensen for*  
TAMARA OVERBY  
TAMARA OVERBY  
Acting Director, Division of Injury  
Compensation Programs (DICP)  
Healthcare Systems Bureau  
U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Parklawn Building, Mail Stop 08N146B  
Rockville, MD 20857

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
RESPONDENT:**

*Voris E. Johnson, Jr.*  
VORIS E. JOHNSON, JR.  
Senior Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch  
Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-0146  
(202) 616-4136

Dated: 9/9/19